CLAIMS

1. A method for converting a source string comprising a plurality of source characters into a target string, the source string being encoded according to a source encoding scheme and the target string being desired to be encoded according to mixed codepages comprising a plurality of sub-codepages, the method comprising the steps of:

    associating a predetermined processing priority with each sub-codepage yielding a processing priority sequence; and

    converting the characters strictly according to said priority sequence.

2. The method according to claim 1 in which the priority sequence reflects the probability of finding a source character in one of said sub-codepages.

3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of

    accessing the sub-codepage having the highest priority which has not yet been accessed for a character if said character has not been found in the current sub-codepage.

4. The method according to claim 1 in which more than one character is processed by a single hardware instruction.

5. The method according to claim 1 in which said priority sequence is dynamically changed from a standard to an individual setting before running the code conversion.

6. A computer system having installed program means for performing the steps of a method according to claim 1.

7. The computer system according to claim 6 arranged for being used as an Internet server having installed program means for performing said method steps.

8. A chip means comprising hardware circuits implementing at least parts of the steps of a method according to claim 1.

9. A device comprising the chip according to claim 8.

10. A computer program for execution in a data processing system comprising computer program code portions for performing respective steps of the method according to claim 1.

11. The computer program according to claim 10 comprising a browser program.

12. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

13. The method according to claim 1 in which said source encoding scheme is a Unicode encoding scheme.